A SEAT OF LEARNING.

Educational Facilities Of The National Capital. Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.-That Wash ington still retains its prestige as seat of learning is amply attested by the matriculation rolls of the various educational institutions of the national capital for the academic year just be ginning. There are already many of these, covering a wide range of study and offering peculiar advantages, and constant additions are being made to their number and facilities. This is especially true of the great Catholic in stitution, which has developed into magnificent proportions in the last few years and which makes Washington



SECTION OF THE EXTERIOR OF THE NEW TRIN-ITY COLLEGE.

the most important seat of Catholic learning in the country. The twelfth academic year of the Catholic University of America was begun a few days ago with the largest attendance in its history. The polyglot character of the student body is quite remarkable, embracing, as it does, Cubans, Porto Ricans, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Germans, Japanese, as well as representatives from the various states of the Union.

The Catholic University of America will ere long have a sister institution entirely worthy of it in the new Trinity college, an institution for the higher education of young women, the main building of which is now receiving its finishing touches. It is announced that it will be ready to receive students on Nov. 1, and on Nov. 6 it will be dedicated by Cardinal Gibbons, who is ex officio president of the advisory board of the college. This institution is under the auspices of the Sisters of Notre Dame, who have for some years been conscientiously at work soliciting aid for the construction of the building which is now about ready for occupancy. Through the efforts of this little band of ardent workers much enthusiasm has been aroused for the college, and enough funds are now in the treasury to defray all the expenses for the completion of the main building, something over \$100,000. This building will afford accommodations for about 100 students, besides apartments for the congregation of sisters and teachers. The plans of the college were made by Sister Mary of Notre Dame, and she has given personal supervision to the

construction of the new structure. The college site, which was purchased three years ago by the alumnæ and friends of the Sisters of Notre Dame, is well adapted for a campus. The main building, about which there will be grouped several auxiliary buildings, is constructed on a high elevation and is of Port Deposit stone, with trimmings of North Carolina granite and a roof of celadine tile. The view from the college is picturesque and attractive, overlooking on the north the Catholic university and the extensive park of the United States Soldiers' home, while on the south rise the domes of the national capitol and the Congressional library. The Smithsonian institution and the great department buildings are also in full view. The auxiliary buildings to be erected and equipped as soon as the money is subscribed are a science building, art school, music hall, gymnasium and residence building for use in case the present building becomes overcrowded. With the completion of these buildings there will be accommodations for 600 students, and they will afford especial facilities for the higher education of young women. The endowments will be sufficient to insure an efficient corps of teachers, and the faculty will be enlisted from the most experienced and capable members of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The authorities claim that the standard will in every way be equal to that of Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr or any other of the

leading schools for young women. Among the prominent women who have taken an especial interest in Trinity college and have contributed generously for the new building are Mrs. Thomas H. Carter of Montana, Mrs. Maurice Francis Egan, Mrs. W. C. Robinson, Miss Olive Risley Seward, Miss Marie E. Patterson and Miss Ella Loraine Dorsey, ail of whom are members of the auxiliary board of regents.

Another notable addition to the educational facilities of Washington is the National Cathedral school, the first structure to be finished in the cathedral close, an estate on Mount St. Alban, bought some two years ago by the Episcopal diocese of Washington,

where one day a settlement of bulldings devoted to educational and religious uses will cluster around the projected Cathedral of St. Peter and St Paul. Of this I may write under a later date.

Washington, as I have said, offers peculiar advantages for advanced study in every department of human knowledge. Here are great libraries, museums and scientific collections, which are important educational auxillaries. Nowhere are these helps to culture more extensive and varied than here. Another addition to these facilities will be the new Washington Public library, the building for which is now in course of construction. It is of course not to be compared with the great library of congress, but it will be no mean addition to Washington's literary and artistic attractions. This is the outcome of a gift of \$350,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a public library building at the national capital. The foundation work for the building has been completed and the contract has been awarded for the superstructure, which it is hoped to have completed within the coming year. The contract is for \$277,000, which, with the cost of the omitted items, foundation work, commissions to architects and superintendent of construction and miscellaneous expenses, will exhaust the \$350,000 donated for public library purposes by Mr. Carnegie.

The building will stand in the center of Mount Vernon square, east and west, but is to approach at its rea: close to the north line of the square, thus placing considerable park space south of the structure and enhancing its architectural effect as its long south front and main entrance are approached.

The structure to be provided under the contract and now in course of construction is to consist of a rectangular central pavilion, 111 feet 5 inches long (north and south) and 92 feet 10 inches broad, with equal wings, east and west, respectively, each 63 feet 6 inches long (north and south) and 54 feet 10 inches broad. The structure will thus have a maximum width on the basement line of 219 feet 10 inches at its front (east and west) and a maximum depth of 111 feet 5 inches in its central pavilion on the north and south line.

The exterior stonework will be of white marble, the basement being of Medford pink granite. The interior will not be as elaborate as was first SOFTENED BY ACE. planned, but it will be unusually attractive, a notable feature of which Awarded Gold Medal at Atlanta Exposition. will be the white marble staircase.

The building will be entirely fireproof Is the best and purest throughout, solidly and strongly constructed and in every way a truly monumental and permanent structure appropriate for its purposes as a public library building in a public square. The book stack will be made entirely R. F. BALKE & CO., Proprietors, of steel and iron and with glass or marble decks. It will be five stories of seven feet each in height and have a capacity of about 264,500 books.

The acceptance of Mr. Carnegie's gift of a library building carries with it the pledge of suitable maintenance of the library by congress, upon which HOW TO GROW the donation was conditioned. Congress, acting as the District's legislature, will undoubtedly fulfill this pledge. The new library has already



MAIN PORTION OF THE NEW WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

about 20,000 volumes. There is good prospect that legislation will be secured from congress which will turn over to the library the miscellaneous books not necessary for reference and official is mostly on 5 year old stock, and by Nonumber between 20,000 and 30,000. Their withdrawal from the 300,000 volumes of the departmental libraries state. would not injure the latter as technical reference collections for official use, but would cause the Washington Publie library to become a general departmental library for the enjoyment and free circulating use of all the employees in all the departments.

There is also a possibility of securing the use for circulating purposes of some of the duplicates, copyrighted or uncopyrighted, in the library of congress. The creation of a circulating department of the latter library has been forcibly urged in congress, but has met with determined opposition.

A compromise between these conflicting views of the true functions of the library of congress may result in the popular circulating use of many of these books through their loan to the Washington Public library.

The relations of nation and capital are such as to make the Washington Public library in principle as much of a government institution as the library of congress. By continuing to develop the latter along its natural lines as a great reference library for scholars and students and by rendering available for public use its circulating books through the medium of the Washington Public library as the national local lending library the nation will waste no fraction of its library resources, and instead of permitting thousands of miscellaneous volumes to remain unused on the shelves they will all be rendered most fully available both for reference and circulating purposes for the benefit of the people of the republic. SAMUEL HUBBARD.

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